

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:30 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Councilmember Jessica Vilani
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
City Attorney Ann Christ
Finance Director Carl Johnson
Interim Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn
DDA Executive Director Mike McGuinness
Assistant to the City Manager Charlene Stevenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Vilani
Ayes: Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REGULAR AGENDA

MOTION NO. M-85-24: Matter of authorizing the Mayor, to work with staff and/or labor attorney, to negotiate an offer of employment with Crystal VanVleck, subject to the successful completion of a background check, with final terms and conditions, consistent with those set forth by City Council in the position profile, presented to City Council for final approval.
Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-85-24
Seconded by Councilmember Black

Jaymes Vettraino, GovHR, opened the meeting and thanked councilmembers for their diligence during the city manager search and interview process.

Mr. Vettraino advised Council to speak to the positive traits of each candidate during their deliberations. He recommended being straight forward and if someone preferred a specific candidate, that would be a good start.

Mr. Vettraino stated if necessary, then councilmembers could discuss pros and cons. He stated that has gone well in the past.

Mayor Dean stated she was thrilled with the applicants who submitted resumes to be part of the process. She said the decision was not an easy one. She took input from staff, community, and residents.

Mayor Dean recommended Crystal VanVleck.

Councilmember Baker echoed the mayor's sentiments toward the candidates. He also thanked Mr. Vettrains and Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer. He said they couldn't go wrong with any of the candidates, but his recommendation was Crystal VanVleck.

Councilmember Hennen echoed his colleagues' sentiments and stated his choice was Crystal VanVleck. He stated she has worked side-by-side with a city manager and is a rising star. He said she is on the rise and it's time to pull her in.

Councilmember Black stated it was not an easy choice. He said it is splitting hairs at this point. He stated he looked at this from two standpoints. 1 – leadership; 2 – team management. He said he also looked at the feedback he received from department heads and staff. His recommendation was Crystal VanVleck.

Councilmember Patterson echoed his colleagues' sentiments and said he too is voting for Crystal VanVleck.

Councilmember Vilani said after looking at a few different things, and knowing we are at a pivotal turning point, she was impressed with all candidates, and the candidate she felt most strongly about is Crystal VanVleck. She stated Ms. VanVleck could look to the future and create a path.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin echoed his colleagues and said he feels the same way about Crystal VanVleck. He said she knows Berkley and is passionate about teamwork and breaking down silos.

Mayor Dean added Ms. VanVleck emphasized the words "we" and "team" and that is another indicator she is the right fit.

Mr. Vettrains said the agreement would now be discussed and then the final employment agreement would come before Council.

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:42 p.m.
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, and Dean
Nays: None.
Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk